

Torrance Herald

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KING WILLIAMS - GLENN W. PFEIL
REID L. BUNDY - Managing Editor

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Recreation Needs

Torrance is served by a group of men and women on its Parks and Recreation Commission who are devoted to the objective of providing adequate facilities for every geographical section of the city. In the past they have been hamstrung by failure of needed bond issues when it has been quite evident that voters will vote selfishly or provincially for an improvement in their own neighborhood while turning down just as much needed or desirable improvements in some other sections of the city.

Obviously, to be successful, the entire program rests on due consideration for the needs of every area in the city with a single rule of evaluating present and long term needs. It is only natural that each neighborhood will find good reasons for local improvements without due consideration for the needs of the entire city at a price the taxpayers can afford to pay. Here is where the members of the commission must exercise firm judgment in their recommendations to the city council, sometimes in the face of criticism.

With further growth of Torrance, the commission will encounter more and more demands for improvements, some of which are sorely needed and others that can be postponed. The quality of the men and women presently serving on the commission indicates that important municipal body will continue to function wisely for the benefit of the city at large.

The Ugly Indonesian

The overriding argument in support of America's continuing foreign aid program is that it is designed to stop the spread of Communism. One of the chief recipients of foreign aid has been, and is, President Sukarno of Indonesia.

Recently, Mr. Sukarno appeared before a congress of the Communist Party of Indonesia. He said:

"I am very happy to have removed the Communist phobia from the minds of our people. The Communists have become strong because of their opposition to imperialism. You may say that I give room to the Communists and that I encourage them."

Later in his speech, Mr. Sukarno pleaded: "Let's go ahead together to complete the revolution." A laudable aim, no doubt, for a Communist, but does it have to be accomplished with American tax funds?

Opinions of Others

A dollar may not do as much for you as it used to, but you don't do as much for a dollar, either.—Maple Shade (N.J.) Progress.

Given an honest chance, the railroads could become the largest industry in the nation today and undoubtedly one of the most important.—Sylacauga (Ala.) News.

It's hard to understand how putting medical care in the Social Security setup will reduce local welfare expense to any extent as most of the people on welfare rolls are not eligible for social security. Thousands of people now paying premiums for health and accident insurance would have an added expense thrust upon them. Let's forget some of this having the government take care of us from birth to burial.—White (S.D.) Leader.

Khrushchev in Trouble, U. S. Policy Makers Hear—headline. With a bow to the late Irvin S. Cobb, we trust the trouble isn't anything trivial.—Alamo (Tex.) News.

The trouble with wars is that it leaves a few people in shekels and all the rest in shackles.—Hurley (Wisc.) Miner.

Out of the Past

From the Pages of the HERALD

40 Years Ago

"Seven stalwart youths will receive diplomas from local high school" read a headline in THE HERALD of June 23, 1922. That was the total class graduated from Torrance High School then under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles school board. Miss Jessie York, a member of the Los Angeles board, presented the diplomas.

Gov. Stephens, of California, will speak in Torrance on July 10, according to an announcement by H. D. Pottinger, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

Approximately \$10,000 was raised by the First M. E. Church of Torrance last Sunday morning. The unannounced fund raising campaign at the regular morning service brought the excellent results that will assist in the new building program.

The greatest enthusiasm prevails over the continued flow of high grade oil from

the Del Amo No. 1 well located just west of the Torrance city limits. Experts believe that if the pressure was relieved the well could produce three times its present flow, reported at 900 barrels daily.

30 Years Ago

The great depression was on, and THE HERALD of June 23, 1932 carried an editorial on its front page urging all business men and homeowners to find odd jobs for the unemployed. Announcement was made that a small settlement of adequate homes was being established in the Shoestring strip area east of the city and it was hoped that many homeless families would be accommodated in clean, safe surroundings.

Faced with the possibility of increasing the municipal tax 17 cents because of decrease in real estate valuations, Torrance city council will meet in special budget session on Friday. The city also is confronted with cov-

ering a \$60,000 overdraft in the city treasury.

20 Years Ago

Rubber in a thousand shapes and forms poured out of local homes, industrial plants, stores and shops this week in a steady stream. But, although many patriotic families were turning in everything from Pa's old galoshes to baby's rubber nipples and Towser's rubber bones, War Production Board officials said the national effort was falling behind national expectations.

Three registration centers for young men who must register for Selective Service at the fifth "R-Day" next Tuesday, June 30, are announced by Mrs. Doris Watson, clerk of Selective Service Board No. 280.

Paul M. Anderson, a Red Cross Corps member, was scheduled to be released by Japanese from a Far East prison where he had been seized during the 1941 invasion.

It Proves He Loves Me—



A Bookman's Notebook

Television Deteriorating, Mehling Declares in Book

William Hogan

A book appeared recently that threw big advertising and big television into a tizzy—perhaps the most frenzied state of excitement since Newton N. Minow's "vast wasteland" speech last year before the National Association of Broadcasters.

The book is "The Great Time-Killer," a documented indictment and indeed a constructive study of television, "the mind-seduction machine." The author is Harold Mehling, author, journalist and television writer (perhaps former television writer after this).

His book traces "the steady deterioration" of TV programming over the past decade. The medium should be called "sellavision," he asserts. And while network executives and agency people in the East have made a point of downgrading his thesis, trade talk was reportedly full of it this week, and Mehling's ideas are already trickling down to that generally forgotten man, the viewer.

Mehling says he has drawn on opinions of both creative and administrative branches of television on which to build his case—"the demoralized and embittered ones," he adds. He quotes everyone from Bob Hope to Newton N. Minow to show that grown-up television of today is fast becoming a national scandal. ("This year, the wasteland comes to you in living color"—Hope. "If we listened to

the eggheads, we'd be out of business in six months"—Robert W. Sarnoff, chairman, NBC.)

The author studies the medium from "the sex merchants" to "the rating game." It is a gloomy view of both big television and what appear to be the cynical forces behind it. Mehling calls for a public voice in the matter by asking viewers to let sponsors know exactly what they think of individual shows. Even a dozen letters to a sponsor would cause a front office fit, he suggests. Yet on Tuesday, the New York Times quoted an unidentified agency executive in reply: "No one here pays any attention to this sort of mail. As long as the product sells, we don't pay any heed to letters that come in."

This is a book in the news, in any event, that probably will be argued over and damned in high commercial quarters all summer long. The viewer, yearning for more meaningful material,

can get in on the fight by reading Mehling's red-hot critique.

Notes on the Margin

... Stuart Chase's examination of American attitudes on major issues is published by Harper as "American Credos." Drawing on the results of hundreds of public opinion polls, Chase discusses what Americans say they believe and what they really believe about foreign policy, defense, big business, science, education and personal problems, among other subjects.

... Henry A. Grunwald, an editor of Time magazine, has brought together a group of articles and essays about J. D. Salinger. Among the contributors to "Salinger: A Critical and Personal Portrait," are Alfred Kazin, Arthur Mizener, John Updike, Granville Hicks and Leslie Fiedler. It is due this month from Harper.

"The Great Time-Killer." By Harold Mehling. World Publishing Co., 349 pp.; \$4.95.

New Booklet Helps Russian Citizen in Service Quest

MOSCOW—Muscovites have suddenly learned how to beat the phenomenon that at present haunts their way of life—the queue.

For years they have stood in line or gone without at the grocers, the hairdressers, the radio or television repairers, the tailors and even the rat-catchers.

Now, almost overnight, they have found a way to make their life easier. For on the street corner bookstands has appeared a best-seller booklet entitled "Service to Your Home."

The booklet is published by the Ministry of Social Economy of the Russian Federation, the biggest republic in the Soviet Union. Just 25,000 copies were printed for Mos-

cow's population of about 8 million and they sold like hot blinis, or pancakes.

The value of the booklet, 138 pages long, is inestimable to the Russian. It contains long lists of telephone numbers just asking to be rung to bring "service" to the overcrowded flat of the harassed housewife and work-tired husband.

"Service," of course, is nothing new to the American or Briton. But to the average Russian the introduction of the word into his vocabulary is positively earth-shaking.

In fact, the foreword of the booklet sets the scene for the Muscovite. It says: "The word 'service' has now entered your life. The demand of the Soviet people for good dresses, comfortable objects and nice and smart things is growing daily. It is strange and sad to relate, however, that not all citizens of our great city realize that often it is unnecessary to go out to shop and stand in a queue to buy things."

"But service has arrived. Service to your home. Soviet service—nothing to do with ownership or private enterprise. Soviet service aimed at lightening the life of the working man and saving his time."

Grocery shops promised instant delivery of anything and everything ranging from

ROYCE BRIER

Dutch, Indonesians Tiff About West New Guinea

Following is a brief summary of a miniature war Indonesia has been waging for six months against the Dutch in the equatorial Pacific. News stories of this affair have necessarily been fragmentary.

Late last year the Netherlands government notified Acting Secretary General U Thant of the United Nations of willingness to open talks with Indonesia on the latter's claim to western New Guinea. But on Jan. 15 a small Indonesian naval vessel was captured by a Dutch ship in New Guinea waters, and a handful of prisoners were taken. Mr. Thant then sent cables to both governments reiterating an earlier concern, and asking for a peaceful settlement. The Dutch at this time agreed to release the prisoners through the U. N., which was done March 11.

The Dutch and Indonesians started secret negotiations for a settlement March 20, but as these talks started, the Dutch charge, the Indonesians infiltrated troops on New Guinea. The Indonesians walked out of the meeting March 23.

At The Hague it was announced March 28 that reinforcements would be sent to New Guinea to meet infiltrators, and April 26 President Sukarno of Indonesia in a speech said he would not resume talks unless the Dutch rescinded the reinforcement. The following day, the Dutch say, Indonesian paratroopers were dropped in the New Guinea jungle.

Again the Dutch protested but agreed to a military status quo under neutral observers, and a resumption of negotiations. This protest was sent to Mr. Thant May 3.

A few days later President Sukarno was quoted in news dispatches as saying the West Irian (New Guinea) question would be settled soon, thanks to new arms received from the Soviet Union.

On May 15 one of his generals was quoted: "Indonesian young men are being poured into West Irian... We shall continue to drop volunteers... and if that is not enough, our armed forces will enter."

On this same day paratroopers were dropped in the jungle, but when an attempt was made to land by boat, about 20 infiltrators were captured by the Dutch. The parties are going to meet again in Washington this month.

In the original dispute, the Dutch offered to turn the area over to a United Nations trusteeship and conduct a plebiscite. The Indonesians agreed to a plebiscite subsequent to an Indonesian occupation, no date given. Most of the natives, who number about 800,000, are in a state of barbarism along the coasts and savagery in the interior.

Around the World With



DELAPLANE

Copenhagen

"If Europe is as crowded as you say, there must be some places that you find less people and less reservation trouble than others..."

Maybe so. It isn't in the Scandinavian countries where I am now. Even with the new 21-floor Hotel Royal, the town of Copenhagen is splitting at its fairy-tale seams.

I have an idea that Portugal, lesser Mediterranean islands such as Sardinia, Ireland in the countryside, the Canaries and such off-beat spots will not get the full pressure that is coming to Europe this year.

Paris, London, the Italian lakes and Rome and all the other standard routes are going to require firm reservations. Everything is like Las Vegas, Nev., on a long holiday weekend.

"... would like to know if two college students on scooters can travel in Europe on an average of \$5 a day each?"

From all past reports I have had, I would say you can. This means 20 pounds' luggage allowance, small cigarette ration, no night clubs, stay at \$1 youth hostels. (American Youth Hostel Association, New York City, gives you the list.)

A European firm is making a portable, 18-mph-scooter and Hammacher-Schlemmer, the New York City store, advertises a folding scooter weighing about 65 pounds.

Might be handy to put on inexpensive trains for the long jumps.

Get one of those Navy rain-coverall things. Everybody I saw on scooters in the rain looked pretty miserable.

"... a good place to swim and beach in Mexico in July?"

The coasts of Mexico are very hot at this time of year. You might like it better up around 5,000 feet—Ixtapan de la Sal is a pretty good resort with swimming pool, an hour and a half from Mexico City; Lake Tequisquitengo, outside Cuernavaca and one hour from the city, is popular; also the Lake Chapala region near Guadalajara.

For straight beach towns: Topolobampo near Los Mochis on the West Coast is newest and has motel rooms; Mazatlan, a little southward, has good accommodations; farther south, San Blas—good beach but heavy surf; Puerto Vallarta, an American discovery, available only by air; Zihuatnanango, same with one good hotel.

A discovery to be made: Puerto Angel reachable on a long dirt road from Oaxaca to the West Coast in the deep tropics. Beautiful bay but you have to make local arrangements (a hammock in a private house)—when you arrive.

Salina Cruz in the Tehuantepec Peninsula is a silted-in port with long white beaches. And on the East Coast off Yucatan, there's the island of Cozumel and Islas de las Mujeres, reached by flying an hour from Merida.

"We would like to know the laws on carrying a sports rifle in a Jeep on a camping trip through the Western States."

These States are very relaxed on guns. As long as you're a citizen, no criminal record, the gun is not fully automatic, you can carry it. Has to be checked in and sealed, entering national parks. Pistols cannot be concealed—that is, they must be on the belt, not in a pocket and in some areas require a permit. All States demand a hunting license.

Stan Delaplaine finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the Torrance HERALD, Box RR, Torrance, Calif.

Morning Report:

Like automobiles, atomic bombs are getting smaller and larger. For those who favor the compacts, the British now report a bomb no bigger than a rolled-up hall rug.

This number—two feet wide and less than five feet long—is small, but has not sacrificed power. It could level a large suburb, complete with people and including shopping centers.

The British are worried that some "irresponsible nation" would hide a few of these compacts if the rest of us agreed to disarmament. I'm worried that if they get much smaller they might get into the hands of some overly conscientious bank robber.

Abe Mellinkoff